WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Founded December 19, 1857 DECEMBER 1975

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
. . .OF TIN CEILINGS AND AMISH BARNS

Collecting is fun and sometimes it doesn't cost a dime. Other times...holy moly!

I was just talking to my partner who is a nut on tin ceilings. You know, the kind of ceiling in old time stores. I thought they were pretty much alike, but according to him (Ed Drury) there are floral patterns, geometric patterns, deep cove moldings with elaborate edgings, and often times a central square from which a chandelier hangs. He doesn't buy them. He just likes to inspect them and catalog them away in his memory bank. Correction please, he is looking for something unusual for his den. So all of you tin ceiling nuts out there, here is another kindred spirit.

Now take Harriet and me. Most any nice Sunday, other than a Sunday during the hunting season, you might find us traversing the highways of Washtenaw County collecting buildings. Greek Revival houses, field stone houses, octagon houses, gazebos, Amish barns, etc. We collected a dandy barn just this past weekend in downtown Clinton. As you leave the main intersection downtown, heading for Saline, the barn is on the right, just beyond the supermarket. Incidentally, kitty-corner across the street is the Clintonian Inn. Jean Schmidt Magee and her husband, Verne, recently purchased it and are maintaining the old traditions... one being the dining room. We collected a New England boiled dinner, but were sorely torn between it and the home cooked chicken and dumplings. The pies are the rounded up home made type and treacherously tempting. We took the old road back home that runs from the main intersection in Clinton north to Manchester. A super drive to be taken along about dusk on a winter afternoon.

The Society? Alive and doing well. Your board of directors is pursuing our museum. Stu Thayer, our eminent curator, and his staff are industriously cataloging artifacts out at Willow Run. David Pollock is working on some super meetings. Don't overlook the Christmas meeting Sunday, December 21 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Wilson-Wahr house at 126 N. Division...tour and wassail bowl.

Thomas F. Lacy

★WCHS HAS 21 NEW MEMBERS★

Twenty-one new members had been added to the rolls at press time as a result of the fall membership drive, Rosemary Whelan, membership chairman, reported.

That brings the membership to 592, counting individual and family memberships each as one.

Lois Foyle, a WCHS member, assisted with the mailing.

JANUARY TOPIC ANNOUNCED

"Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Refinishing Furniture and Never Dared Ask."

That will be the topic for the January WCHS meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Liberty Hall. David Shafer, owner of the Old Brick Quality Refinishing business at 1010 Pontiac St. will be the speaker.

WILSON–WAHR HOUSE TO BE SITE OF WCHS CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

A gala old-fashioned open house is on the agenda for the Washtenaw County Historical Society's December meeting.

The membership is invited to visit the Greek Revival style Wilson-Wahr house at 126 N. Division St. where the Thomas C. Lacys make their home. He is the son of WCHS President Thomas F. Lacy. His wife is the former Natalie Sallade, great-granddaughter of George Wahr, former local book merchant, who bought the house in 1893. Their infant son, T. Matthew Lacy, is the fifth generation of the family to live there.

The house was originally built in the early 1840's for Judge N. W. Wilson.

The main floor only will be open. Since the Society visited the house a few years ago the Lacys have done a considerable amount of redecorating to enhance and brighten it. It still contains many of the original antique furnishings.

Punch and cookies will be served. Parking is available on Division St. on Sundays. Attendants will be on hand to park cars.

COOKIES ANYONE?

Volunteers have been asked to bake some of their favorite Christmas cookies for the WCHS party Dec. 21.

If you wish to contribute please call Irene Lawliss at the Historical Society of Michigan, 769-1828, days (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday) or at home evenings, 994-0588.

"GOOD OLD KING" IN ENGLAND, "BAD OLD KING" HERE

By C. Howard Ross, M. D.

"George be a King." Such was the admonishment of Augusta the Saxe-Gotha, Dowager Princess of Wales, to her indolent and almost illiterate British son, George Guelph. One day he would become the Duke of Brunswick, Elector of Hanover and the third George, King of Great Britain and Ireland.

With those titles, earned by time and inheritance, he must face the rebellion of his American Colonies. Then it might be most appropriate for his wayward children to seek a knight in shining armor, St. George of Mt. Vernon, about to slay the British dragon, another George, with the pop eyes and receding forehead.

George III as a boy soon learned of royal unhappiness: that George I despised his wife and successor and collected a covey of mistresses; that George II performed in equal light. Now the heir to George II was our subject's father, named Frederick, Prince of Wales, serving as a "temporary in-between".

Our George went through a series of vacuous tutors, who left him a fumbling, mother-smothered, starry-eyed, lazy royal good-for-nothing.

George's father, Frederick, Prince of Wales, had an ignorant and inept Princess for a wife. The Prince was roundly hated by his parents George II and Queen Caroline of Ansbach. He was called "Poor Fred", and both royal parents, on more than one occasion, wished him to be thoroughly dead.

Frederick went through a series of mistresses before he married. His mother doubted his manhood and performed a little bit of sneaking research among the mistresses, to determine his ability to father on heir.

Cabinet Ministers called this young man a poor weak creature, described as irresolute, contemptible, untrustworthy. They summed him up as a "cherubic face attached to the body of a reptile". His mother did better. Her words included, "an avaricious sordid monster", "greatest ass and rascally puppy in the world", "who would sell the throne of England to the Pretender for one million pounds".

The only possible escape for Frederick from his parents was by means of marriage. George II referred to the couple as a "half-witted cocks-comb married to a Prussian mad-woman".

Frederick joined the party of opposition to rattle his parents. On the cultural side he could play the cello and at times wrote indifferent French poetry. "Poor Fred" walked the streets, entered the cottages of the lowly and sat at their tables. They loved him in spite of his vices. When dressed for review he wore a ruby frock, richly guarded by gold lace. Here was a hippy Prince before his time.

PRINCELY EDUCATION

George III as a baby was suckled by his laundress. Augusta ring-fenced him and her other children against corrupting contemporaries. His early governor was the elder Lord North, who attempted to teach him Latin, music, fencing, dancing, history, mathematics and religion.

In one of Frederick's more sober and reflective moods, near the end of his life, he advised the future King to "reduce the national debt; separate Britain from Hanover; retrieve the glory of the throne; wear the crown worthily and convince the nation of his being a true Englishman".

Prince Frederick died in 1751, nine years before his father. He was placed in the Henry VII Chapel without anthem or organ. Thus was displayed royal finality.

George then became Prince of Wales, just past the age of 12. His teachers classified him as "deprived and worthless" though "sexually pure". The boy enjoyed only the company of his brother, turning shy, lazy and emotionally starved.

Some described him as "honest and amiable", but he worried over the sins of his neighbors. Augusta, "long nosed and without parts," hoped he would be a "virtuous and uncontaminated King". Said she, "If war with France is to come, make it soon, before my son is crowned the Sovereign".

As he matured, a cousin, the Princess of Wolfenbüttel was suggested as a possible wife. George spoke up snappily, "I will not be Wolfenbüttled." He was censorious like his mother, "intellectually blinkered", "overcome by convention" and totally ignorant of evil, winding up "bigoted and priggish".

THE RISE OF LORD BUTE

John Stuart, the third Earl of Bute, was fathered from a Royal Stuart bastard. His mother sprang from the first Duke of Argyll. Bute was educated at Eton and sat as a Scottish Peer. He married the daughter of Edward and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. This young man entered the Royal Household at age 33, poor in pocket book, but full of charm and vigor-and the "best leg (dancer) in London". Theatrically he won the hearts of Frederick and Augusta and George.

In 1750 he was appointed Lord of Frederick's Bedchamber. His relationship became "intimate but not adulterous".

After Frederick's death, Bute supported Augusta with long hours of counselling, sneaking up the back stairs and stimulating the gossip mongers. He then assumed total mastership over the mind and heart of Prince George, serving as guide, friend, teacher extra-

ordinary and the seat of all wisdom and virtue. George surrendered, totally infatuated with his mother's so-very-good friend. Some whispered, "the Princess' fancy Dan".

The Prince mawkishly appeared before Bute with self-abnegation. Any thoughts not initiated by the teacher, were "improper", thus making the lad a slave and puppet of a skillful politician. Bute's enemies became the enemies of George. They included the uncle, Duke of Cumberland, and the schemer Charles Fox, as opposed to Pitt the Elder, that "good man".

By 1755, Bute was hired as the personal tutor of the future King. George wrote love letters. "I will be yours till death separates us". "Without you my home at Kew tires me." These notes were "jumbled in composition, erratic in syntax and spelling, passionate in prejudice, pathetic in self-abasement and overly conscious of poor worth."

George, so sincere with dog-like devotion, was anxious to be a "monarch worthy of England's state of lustre." "I will turn out as you wish." "Our relationship will not change following my marriage." "This harmless boy will protect you and my mother against the wicked ministers." "I will throw off indolence and choose vigor." "A great Power above sent Lord Bute to me." "I will be resolute and reform my conduct, conquering my inadequacies and heedlessness, or renounce the throne and retire to some uninhabited cavern!"

When Bute thought of quitting, George exclaimed, "Stay by the fire." When George faltered, Bute was the buttress, "Be strong, my Prince."

Bute claimed "relaxation of the bowels" and threatened departure time and again.

Bute and Pitt the Elder broke up in 1758, a year before Wolfe took Quebec.

George began to notice the

Original in U-M's Clements Library
Copy by Herb Pfabe

KING GEORGE III

fair sex. He vowed never to follow the pattern of the French Kings or the first two Georges. He fell in love with Lady Sarah Lennox, sister of the third Duke of Richmond and sister-in-law of the hated Fox. George recognized her beauty and shining graces and became aware of the "violence" of his love.

"Sleep has left me," he fussed. "I hope to raise her to a throne." Bute quoted her relationship to the opposition and thumbed her down. Lady Sarah was therefore dropped temporarily. Later she refused a proposal, and still later accepted, but a search among the German Princesses-blotted her out of the current bridal picture. Many years later, to an oldish and nearly blind Lady Sarah a small pension came from the King.

WHIGS AND ROYALTY.

George II, "my hateful old grandfather", as the youthful George labeled him, died at Kensington Palace of a ruptured ventricle, October 25, 1760. The young Prince was crowned King George III at age 22. The Seven Years War was culminating in a "blaze of victories." "That little man, so insignificant in looks, all dressed up in a blanket of ermine and a big heap of borrowed hair" was gone.

George II was the most advanced in age of British Monarchs (age 77) up to his time, and was only surpassed by George III and Victoria. He withstood two wars, a rebellion plus riots and witnessed some improvement in living standards.

The English public regarded George II as tight-fisted, mean-spirited, undignified and favoring Hanover vs. Britain. "He exercised a dogeship", being absent too long on visits to his native Electorate.

Now, could George III overthrow the Whigs, with arbitrarily chosen ministers, utilizing personal power, plus a minimum of friction? He gained at first, but he along with Victoria in a later generation, failed to halt the decline of royal power.

George III wished to liberate the Crown from the domination of the ministers—and to serve as a Patriot King, uniting the politicians behind the Court. His motto was, "The King reigns but not the government."

In 1760 the young King was suddenly patriotic and deeply committed. He became resolute, idealistic and opinionated. He said he meant business by destroying the competition and annihilating the difference between Whig and Tory.

The Seven Years Struggle was sort of a First World War. It established England's naval supremacy and witnessed the beginning of industrialization. Canal building and Mr. Watt's steam engine were coming up in no time.

At the beginning of Kingship-a message from George II's valet to the Prince revealed his grandfather's death, while the lad was out riding; all of this happened before the liveries of Pitt brought the official news.

George said to Bute, "I must hear from you, what further to do.' He saw Lord Bute before the Privy Council, forming a sort of "curtain cabinet," shadowing Newcastle and Pitt! These worthies or unworthies heard some strange news. "My Lord Bute will tell you my thoughts," said George.

Fox smarted, "A state cannot flourish with an ignorant man at the head." Bute insisted, "I am a private man."

Pitt, with his gout and obsessive sense of mission, was the national idol. A cabinet minister said, "With Pitt at the head, the rest of us don't have to think." Bute had his eye on a peerage. George referred to his own insufficiency in bringing "this bloody and expensive War (Seven Years) to an honorable peace."

George, age 22, said to Pitt, age 70, "I will not permit the ministers to trample upon me."

Newcastle complained, "We have a cipher at Court," referring to the first youthful monarch since 1558, who began to draw great crowds in Whitehall."

George issued a proclamation to an irreligious and depraved society, "calling for encouragement of piety and virtue, for the prevention and punishment of vice, profaneness and immorality—and urging all to attend services at pain of our highest displeasure." An answer came, "Religion is for the servants."

The King did an unusual thing for his time. He became a politician without a mistress. However, his first general election was the most corrupt ever known in England.

Pitt denied the King's right to appoint ministers. He violently opposed the existence of a "favorite" at Court. Walpole said, "We are as victorious as the Romans and as corrupt." Others nodded, "Find a pasture to feed all the beasts".

George was faced with the "necessity of inequality", since by birth—some were more fortunate than others. At times he was his own Prime Minister, "a well-intentioned blunderer".

Lord Bute entered the Cabinet and wrote George a letter of self-approval and self-deception. His 1600 words boiled down to, "My duty is to God, Country and King, treading on unknown path, sacrificing peace, and my little happiness at your command." Bute continued, "I have fear of my bowels, betrayal of my inadequacy, malice of my enemies, being aware that my mind is not capable of public business." Such a front did not sweeten the political atmosphere.

PRINCESS SOPHIA CHARLOTTE

Brides were offered at a seller's market. A good sane amiable Protestant Princess was hard to come by. Could there be a royal lady like Sarah Lennox, not too stubborn or ill-tempered? After passing over a corpulent candidate or two, Princess Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg—Strelitz was selected. She had good sense, beautiful hair and sparkling eyes, big mouth, milk and blood complexion and a snub nose. She was described all the way from beautiful to tolerable to formidable to hideous. The betrothal was announced July 8, 1761, and Sarah Lennox was chosen as a bridesmaid! The Coronation date was scheduled for September 22, 1761, with some delay, due to the death of Charlotte's mother.

The gossips said that "Sleeping with an ugly Princess drove George mad." Her wedding dress was weighted too heavily. Her husband told her what to wear. The Duke of York whispered, "Courage, Princess, courage."

Charlotte played the harpsichord for the wedding guests, speaking to them in French and to the King in German, later learning English readily without accent.

George literally made a prisoner of his bride, penning up his 17 year old prize, to "prevent her corruption". She spent much time with her pet zebra and other animals. She now resides in botany text books. The Bird of Paradise plant is named Strelitzia, after her birth place.

The Royal couple developed a fine music room, both playing the harpsichord. Later came the pianoforte for her and the violin for George. A library of fine books, furniture of exquisite taste and an art collection followed in good order. Country homes were established at Kew and Richmond Lodge. They were a devoted couple, and "Dearest" in messages to Lord Bute was gradually shortened to "Dear".

WAR'S END

Lord Egrement succeeded Pitt as Secretary of State. Bute was elevated to First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister, scaling the summit of ambition, but demonstrating no stomach for such great heights. Now George buckled and bolstered up his former tutor, who was failing daily by inches. The King kicked resolution into his slats with the Order of the Bath, as a convenient bribe.

The 1763 Treaty of Paris was in the offing to end the Seven Years War and to give England its greatest territorial expansion in history. George called in bad men to govern bad men, saying, "I prefer six open enemies to two secret ones." "A political attack on me is an attack on England." In later years he added, "Against God and Country."

In Commons the Treaty went through thunderous testing. Fox declared, "The Treaty gives us nothing." "Nothing" included granting to England "Canada, Cape Breton Island, Louisiana East of the Mississippi, Senegal, West Indies Islands, Clive's conquests in Bengal, timber cutting rights in Honduras, and freedom to navigate the Mississippi River." Parliament seemed inclined to accept this "nothing" and passed the measure 319 to 65. Those who opposed were turned out of office.

Thus the area, later called Michigan, changed hands from the backwoods of New France to the wild western country of his Majesty, George III.

The scandals of Bute and Princess Augusta mounted. Cartoons quoted, "Boot for Bute and petticoat for Augusta." "North Briton 45" a paper edited by John Wilkes, related George III and his family, to that of Edward III and his mother, Queen Isabella, plus her paramour, Mortimer.

Bute debated with "lofty ignorance", occasionally dropping an oracular sentence from a cloud. He bowed out of the Cabinet, quoting, "health problems, relaxation of the bowels, edge of the precipice."

AMERICA ENTERS.

Grenville rose to become Prime Minister for a short time after Bute. No sooner had George been aware of Kingship than the expenses of the Seven Years War victories bore him down. What could be more logical than heaping some of the mounting costs upon his American Colonies, who had "taken the fat" since the days of James I? Also the Colonies no longer had to fear the French War Lords. Defense against the Indians was costing large amounts of pounds sterling.

The two Prime Ministers that, shine out historically in influential years, are Lord North, who took the King through most of the Revolutionary War, and Pitt, the younger, who performed the neat trick of lasting for 17½ years on the job.

Let me spend a moment on Lord North, the younger. He was inclined to be easy going, but served as a first class handler of the King's affairs, gauging the temper of the Commons. His appearance presented puffy cheeks, a flabby dewlap, receding brow, prominent and heavy-lidded rolling eyes, with the air of a blind trumpeter. He was considerable of an oratorical antagonist and much sharper than he looked. North did not actually hate the Colonies. He desired more to bend them under the King's will. On occasion the "King's business" was performed by North, much to his own distaste.

America had some friends on the street, who said, "An American war is madness." In Parliament there was Edmund Burke. As a high school student I learned excellent English, perfect logic and political verbiage by studying Burke's speeches "On Conciliation With The Colonies". Soon Pitt, the Elder, (Lord Chatham), rose in Parliament. He both spanked America and then dried her tears. A Parliamentarian shouted, "Since when have the Americans been emancipated?" Pitt spouted back, "Since when have they been enslaved?" Charles Fox and John Wilkes assumed friendship for America.

George III, with his sense of self-rectitude, thought of the Colonies as wicked children. If they were against him, "they opposed God and Country". Therefore, Papa must apply the big stick of discipline. "The dye is cast." It was as simple as that in the royal mind.

Events moved thick and fast. A whole series of galloping confrontations pushed Mother England and America towards war. They included the last bad effects of the Molasses Act of 1733. the Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Coercive Acts of 1774, the Boston Massacre, Lexington and Concord and many more. (Editor's note: Dr. Ross lists 48 events.)

These numerous causes and early circumstances related to the Revolutionary War are intimately connected with the peculiar personality twists of the King.

These events culminated in the Declaration of Independence which George III interpreted as a "Declaration of War."

He then faced a long and costly war. He felt England's cause was just. Samuel Johnson said it in more vulgar terms, that "Americans were a race of convicts and ought to be thankful for anything we allow them, short of hanging."

King George was confronted by wrangles in Parliament, jealousies in the Cabinet, resistance of commanders in the field to arm-chair strategists in London, and outrageous lack of communication between English generals in the American scene. George began to discover that "The English Lion did not have the speed of a race horse!"

In the years that followed General Washington became the wise man, finding shreds of military gains in successful retreats or withdrawals. The English won idle victories of some dimension, being then worried by snipers all the way back to the base. Such reports sounded rather well at home, 3000 miles away, but their substance did not end the struggle. Some English generals labeled them "hollow victories."

Then in rapid staccato succession came the true War's lists 45 battles and related events from 1776 to Cornwallis' surrender in 1781. The latter event was witnessed by his great great grandfather, William Henry Louthan VI of Winchester, Va., who stood second in line.)

At word of Cornwallis' surrender, Lord North exclaimed, "My God, it's all over. The game is up."

George replied, "No one can place the blame on me."

The King did not quite admit adversity all through 1780. Each victory lifted him up. He was inclined to brush over defeats and then suffered deeply in purple moods of despair. At the end he could not believe that "Almighty Providence" had let him, "the Patriot King," down. On two occasions, between Yorktown and 1783, he seriously considered abdication. He sulked against

any recognition of the new country sharing black and angry memories on both sides. Later George stated he would welcome America as an independent Nation.

The Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783 officially ended the Revolutionary War, yielding an independent United States of America to the Community of Nations. Michigan, which was the French backwoods from 1615 to 1763, became British for 20 years. It suddenly turned Yankee officially in 1783, although the British flag in Detroit was not lowered until 1796. We are Yankee via the courtesy of George Rogers Clark and the Peace Treaty.

ILLNESSES OF GEORGE III.

King George was somewhat out of the picture in the Stamp Act days, suffering from a mysterious illness beginning with "the flurries". There were five more major attacks before 1810, when his son George was made provisional Regent. By 1811 came the twilight era, following the death of the favorite daughter, Amelia. The future George IV was then created full Regent until his father's death in 1820, and then succeeded to the throne.

Two Wars with Napoleon faced England. George, the Regent, wound up the second struggle at Waterloo in 1815. He also served for the King during our War of 1812.

The King's illness was not diagnosed until 117 years following his death. The cycles were greatly alike, beginning with the flurries, leg cramps and swelling; gastro-intestinal involvement, including diarrhea, fluid stasis, and gross discomfort; chest activities, suggesting pneumonia and severe hoarseness; delirium and profound babbling; hallucinations; frank madness; convulsions; wine-colored urine; varied-tinted skin and a black currant jelly hue to his eyes. Even bones have been known to become tinted with a reddish color. There was a wasting of flesh followed by weakness of body and partial blindness. He talked incessantly with agitation and giddiness. On one occasion he rattled words continuously for 87 hours. In his fantasies, there was a morganatic wife, Lady Pembrooke, although he never strayed from Queen Charlotte. He upbraided a minister for not fetching this "second wife" to his quarters. He severely dressed down one of his doctors, "who was a witness at the ceremony and then denied it."

In horror he "witnessed" the onrushing of a vast flood. George shouted, "Let us flee to Denmark." "I can see Hanover through a telescope." "I have met Dr. Quixote." "Shake hands with the King of Prussia (an oak branch)." The Monarch made vast plans in his delirium to rebuild the royal residences, referring to himself as the "late King".

"In the 1890's before the Spanish-American War when I was a boy, we went out with handmade hockey clubs 'killing' Hessians. Big thistles eight-feet tall were 'Hessians', shorter thistles, 'Redcoats'. We hunted Spaniards for a while during the Spanish-American War but then went back to Hessians."

"This reflects the exaggerated horror in which Americans held the Hessians and George III for hiring them against his own people."

The repeated attacks are now encompassed within the hereditary disease entity, or entities, known as porphyria. There is a breakdown of protein bodies and red cells into toxic substances, called porphyrins. There are more than a dozen porphyrins, including chlorophyll. The familiar disorder probably struck the Prince Regent, when he was taking office. A punster felt that the ailing George should serve as Vice-Regent to the Regent.

Many doctors came and went, now in Royal favor, now fired without ceremony. They blistered the King's feet, cupped his belly, purged his gut, placed leeches at strategic points, fed him rhubarb tablets, mush, tartar emetic and bark. Then came the bleeding, not neglecting the straightjacket, when he became raving mad.

One physician appears in our modern medical texts, known as William Heberdeen. However, the learned ones filed into the Guelph bedroom, performed their numerous services in a high state of dignified and stately ignorance, making the King ever so much more miserable with their palliative devilishness. For sleeplessness, their prescription provided a pillow of warm hops.

We have reviewed critically the medical performances in George III's day. In these modern times, there are splendid articles on the diagnosis, pathology and genetics of porphyria, but the paragraphs on therapy become diffuse in intent and results obtained. The advice given leans towards "treating the symptoms." A patient may reveal abdominal surgical scars prior to actual diagnosis.

At times splenectomy has aided. Anemia must be relieved; gastro-intestinal upsets and delirium have responded to promazine; steroids have been tried, as well as "the pill". Since we are dealing with a genetic Mendelian disaster, the best prevention is in the proper selection of ancestors. Barbiturates and related drugs are hazardous and must be avoided.

Thus we observed King George III at his lowest level of dejection, and one can only pity his plight.

Surely, with so many oddities of personality and bodily handicaps, he might be forgiven for losing a great war.

FAMILY LIFE IN THE PALACE.

Queen Charlotte gave George 15 children. They proved to be a loving though dull couple, and she called herself, "His Majesty's most loyal subject." She mother-smothered her children when they were little, quarreled with her sons when they reached manhood and maneuvered her unmarried daughters' lives into their "nunnery

fortress". Eventually they wrote her their own Declaration of Independence, shocking her out of her boots. Some secured morganatic linkages or "marriages in the sight of God".

The daughter Charlotte married Frederick, the King of Wurtemberg. Since he was a Napoleonic puppet, his Queen was classified as an enemy to her father, and her name was no longer mentioned in family circles.

Daughter Elizabeth married Frederick of Hesse-Hamburg, and Mary captured William, her cousin, the Duke of Gloucester.

The only "good" son was Adolphus, whose grand-daughter, Mary of Tek, became Queen to George V. In her veins ran the blood of an actress, her paternal grandmother.

Four sons, who spent much time in drinking, gambling and wenching, finally settled down to Royal marriages, in later life, attempting to replenish the throne. Three became Kings. George IV and William IV died without living Royal issue. Ernest, Duke of Cumberland and Duke of Brunswick, ascended the throne of Hanover. A descendant is the Dowager Queen of Greece, Frederica, in exile.

When George III heard about Washington's capture of 1,000 Hessians at Trenton he roared, "I paid good pounds sterling for those hired men!"

Edward, Duke of Kent, was compelled to divorce his morganatic wife. He then married a widow, the Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and produced a daughter, Queen Victoria, who reigned in Britannia for almost 64 years.

Queen Charlotte, eventually settled down to a morose and prickled state. She was horrified by her husband's illnesses and attacks of madness. Her drawing room was like a funeral wake, punctuated by weeping daughters. She was made Chief of the Council that managed the body of the patient, but she feared his physical violence and came less and less to the sick room. Charlotte was never seen in her husband's presence for the last six and a half years of his life. Her death preceded that of her forlorn and blind mate. Also she looked like death itself in all of her later years.

WEIGHING THE SCALES.

"Who took the oath of office, you or I?" So said George on more than one occasion, He was pugnacious, self-driving and most interfering in Cabinet matters, selecting Prime Ministers and ramming the nomination of department heads down their throats. The opposition was the "enemy of God and Country". It was only after several attacks of madness that he settled back to become "Farmer George" and the "Good Old King", who permitted others to slave at the tasks of government.

George was never overly intelligent. He made up for the lack by being a tenacious, courageous, uxorious, and an idiosyncratic Hanoverian. He was more devoted to Britain, in a "nervous-Nellie" sort of way, than any other of his German line.

On one rare occasion Napoleon addressed a message to George personally, beginning with, "Monsieur, mon Frere". The King contrived a reply, but gave it no signature, saying, "That will settle the self-appointed Corsican upstart". It is a strange reflection of circumstances that both monarchs ended their days in a penned-up state, Guelph in a sick bay and Bonaparte in St. Helena.

George demonstrated kindness and ability to punish, all at the same time. His dry wit would reveal an old English joke. Then he poked his listener in the ribs with a "Hey, hey, hey, hey; What, what, what!

He felt that "essential goodness" was his best character. From the standpoint of America, he was a peculiar Monarch of pivotal importance. His modes and moods in punishing his "disobedient children" aided our independence. George III "was the law." George Washington was "the breaker of the law."

The King was a most difficult man to live with. Charlotte locked her bedroom door in later life and only met the King in the presence of her daughters. They occasionally then had dessert together. A well-knitted family became completely broken up.

Not everybody hated George III. New York furnished more recruits to George III than to George Washington.

Lord Byron wrote, "He was a faithful husband, a decent father, a good farmer and a moderate spender." Kingship was not evaluated.

George did not believe openly in offering bribes; hence he turned his back, partially, when under-the-table money was involved or Peerages were in the political offing.

He was never neutral, probably never understanding the runaway social and industrial transformation that faced him. He was thus ill-fitted to move with the times. George believed in "his right", "conventional morality", "correctness of behavior", "love of Country and family" and the "Established Church". "The blessed British Constitution must never be corrupted by democracy." He quoted the "subordination of his inferiors to the responsibility of their betters."

Following Wilkes, the writer "Junius" dressed down George publicly and privately, revealing faults and recommending betterment of personality and performance.

The King wrote volumes of notes in longhand on all subjects to many people—at times more clerk than Sovereign. He only acquired a secretary in his invalidism. He brow-beat many a

Cabinet meeting to his will.

Astronomy attracted him. His music master from Germany, Herr Herschel, played with the telescope at night, and discovered the planet Uranus, first naming it "Georgium!"

His greatest strength became his greatest weakness. "I will not separate myself from what I think right." "The Cabinet has decided. Let Parliament vote the action." Regarding possible Catholic emancipation, he replied, "I can't depart from the blessings of a fixed principle." "If I never kicked over the traces, why should my sons?"

George's will-power and tenacity unfolded "the responsibility of Royalty in the superior castes." He practiced "obsolete paternalism". He looked upon Benjamin Franklin and John Adams as "ludicrous and offensive."

And yet while other thrones tumbled, he stood "like tranquility on a rock". Said he, "One Englishman is worth two Frenchmen." "How can the Deity desert so honest a cause?" His only greatness was the factor that birth thrust upon him. He believed in "improvement but not progress", having no clear view of the future. He succeeded as a pin-pricker, but never attained fame as a campaign manager. When his intensive "state-craft" slumped, his popularity rose.

His thesis of life ran as follows, "It is highly necessary to avoid all novelties. We know that all-wise nations have stuck scrupulously to their ancient customs."

Some questions of historical balances are finally raised. "Would the marriage with Lady Sarah Lennox have given him a more sunny attitude towards his Colonies?" "Might the ascension of George the IV to the throne at the time of our Revolution, have yielded a legislative separation versus time, blood and ruptured economies in a prolonged war?"

Failing in both categories, "the Good Old King" of the English has thus been remembered as "The Bad Old King" in America.

Dr. Ross, a past president of WCHS, has been writing history as an avocation since he was eight years old. Then he wrote a summary of the Kings of England and their genealogy up through Queen Victoria. He gave it to his grandmother who, herself, got a diploma in history at age 70. His original much longer paper on George III is available from him on request.

COUNTY CALENDAR

Chelsea Area Historical Society--Meets at 8 p.m. on the second Monday of month at First Congregational Church. Next meeting Jan. 12.

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Milan Historical Society--Meets at 7:30 p.m. on third Wednesday of month at Milan Community House. Dec. 17 meeting will include election of officers and Christmas party with $1 gift exchange.

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Ypsilanti Historical Society--The Society will have its third annual Christmas party from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the museum. The program includes exhibits, carols and refreshments all on a Christmas theme. The museum will not be open to the public that day.

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Washtenaw County Historical Society Meeting

SUNDAY, Dec. 21, 1975
3:00-6:00 P.M.

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